



friends  
INTERNATIONAL

january - april 2018

# prayer diary



“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end; they are new  
every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

Lamentations 3:22-23

# january – The Year Ahead

1-7 Jan

❖❖❖ **FROM THE DIRECTOR.** As Directors we are excited for the year ahead and what God will do. We are currently focusing on developing leaders and the recruitment of staff. Please pray with us regarding filling our vacancies. 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.' Luke 10:2. Pray also for the Directors to encourage, challenge, inspire, and counsel our staff in the development of the work for the glory of God. **Alan Tower, National Director**

8-14 Jan

❖❖❖ **ANNUAL CONFERENCE.** The annual Friends International conference will be taking place 11th – 14th January. The theme this year is 'An Unchanging Gospel in a Changing World' and will feature guest speakers Penny Vinden from IFES, Kang-San Tan from BMS, and Andy Dipper from All Nations Christian College. Please pray for us as an organisation as we come together for fellowship and are equipped for ministry in 2018. Pray also for our guest speakers, that they would be led by God in all their teaching. **Diane Smith, Conference Planning Team member**

15-21 Jan

❖❖❖ **NORTH REGION.** In 1 Corinthians 3:6 Paul says 'I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God makes it grow'. As we move from the Christmas tree to the Easter Cross please ask God to help us as we work in our part of the harvest field, that God would bring spiritual fruitfulness and growth in our relationships with students, volunteers, churches, other student groups and the university authorities. Last term saw a number of staff face difficult health and family issues. Please pray Psalm 91 for both staff and volunteers that as we dwell in God's presence every day, we would experience His protection and care. Thank you for praying for us! **Ramsey Pigott, Regional Development Director (North)**

22-31 Jan

❖❖❖ **SOUTH REGION.** Summer outreaches are an important part of Friends International's year-round ministry, and planning for them is already well underway although they don't start until July! There will hopefully be five outreaches across the south this summer ranging from two to seven weeks! Pray for the staff who have the responsibility of organising these – from the logistics to team recruitment, planning, training, talks and so much more! Pray that they would be encouraged and that the ground work they lay now would see fruit in international students hearing the gospel this summer. **Sarah Dawkins, Regional Development Director (South)**



# february – From Our Affiliates

1-4 Feb

❖❖❖ **PHIL IN LEEDS.** Thank God for the church coordinators that we are developing to become leaders. Pray for God's calling on these leaders' lives to prioritise international student ministry over other things and for hearts to grow. Thank God for those who give generously to the ministry. Pray for more people to become financial partners, to enable the ministry to be longer term. Thank God for those churches that we work with. Pray for the leadership, that God would show them the opportunity and blessing of reaching and discipling international students and that their hearts would be moved to resource this ministry. **Phil Thomas, Affiliate in Leeds**

5-11 Feb

❖❖❖ **RUTH IN GUILDFORD.** Praise God for the ten students from China, Hong Kong and Malaysia who attended the Christianity Explored (CE) course at Guildford Baptist Church last term. One Hong Kong student became a believer. Praise too for the six students who attended the ID course and had opportunity to discuss and pray about issues related to being a follower of Jesus. Pray for the same CE students who are attending the Alpha course this term. Pray for the Cantonese and Mandarin speaking student translators to be blessed in their translation ministry, for spiritual fruit amongst the guests and the formation of good friendships between the students and church members. **Ruth Archer, Affiliate in Guildford**

12-18 Feb

❖❖❖ **DAVID IN BOURNEMOUTH**  
Give thanks for all international students in Bournemouth. May God continue to bring people from all over the world here! We run International Connection and it happens every Monday at Christ Church Westbourne. Pray for the team to be bold in sharing the gospel, and for us to be full of love, skill and wisdom in how we speak and act. Soon I will be leaving my role so a new leader will be needed. Pray that a suitably willing and able person would be identified. **David Thornhill-Smith, Affiliate in Bournemouth**

19-28 Feb

❖❖❖ **CATHERINE IN COVENTRY.** Give thanks that we continue to welcome students from all over the world at Lower Ford Street Baptist Church in Coventry. Pray for the Explore team as they study the Bible with people with very different levels of understanding. Give thanks for the Mandarin Bible study that ran in December, and pray that this may continue and bring in new people. **Catherine Ayre, Affiliate in Coventry**



# march – Conferences and Training

## 1-4 March

### ❖ NORTH WEST CONFERENCE.

The North West Conference will take place in Manchester on 3rd March. It is an annual day of training for local staff and volunteers that equips for ministry to international students. Please pray for this event; that it would be an enjoyable day for all and that important truths would be taught and understood. Pray that our volunteers in the North West would be able to attend and that they would get much from this training day.

## 5-11 March

❖ **NEW STAFF TRAINING.** Every year in March Friends International holds training for new members of staff. 13th – 15th March will see up to seven new members of staff gather near London for essential training. We thank God that He continues to bring workers to the ministry and that the mission field is not being neglected. Pray that each new member of staff would be properly prepared for the challenges they will encounter in ministry and would be equipped to achieve much for the Lord.

## 12-18 March

❖ **SCOTTISH CONFERENCE.** On 17th March the Friends International Scotland Vision and Equipping Day will take place: a day for all those involved in international student ministry in Scotland as part of a Friends International project, in church teams, and student Christian groups. A day for supporters and those interested to be

involved to come and learn more. Please pray for all those that attend, that they would be refreshed and envisioned in ministry, and would go on to impact Scotland for the cause of Christ.

## 19-25 March

❖ **WORD ALIVE 2018.** Every year some 4,000 people attend the Word Alive conference, including a huge number of university students. This year's event, 7th – 12th April, will as usual have a dedicated gathering and teaching series for international students, organised by Friends International and OMF. Please pray for this year's conference and for the international students who will attend. Pray that their hearts would be open to receive and that the non-Christians would come to a clear understanding of the truth during the week.

## 26-31 March

❖ **WORD ALIVE 2018.** During Word Alive (7th – 12th April) international students will have the chance to join in the main meetings and experience worshipping with thousands of other believers. This is often the first time they have ever experienced anything like this. Praise God that they can witness the church coming together in this way and be encouraged by it. Pray that as they head home they would be fired up to continue growing in God, worshipping Him and sharing their faith. Pray that local churches would be able to continue the discipleship process and prepare these students for their eventual return to their home countries.

## april – For our Reach Programme

### 1-8 April

❖ **REACH RECRUITMENT.** 31st March 2018 is a preliminary deadline for Reach applications for the next academic year. Most years we have between 15 and 20 graduates on our Reach Programme working with us in some 10 different UK cities. We also have a number of internationals; this year we have Reach from China, Japan, Colombia and Hong Kong. Pray that we would again recruit to our Reach Programme energetic and committed graduates from all over the world. Pray that the admin around the applications would go smoothly and that those who need visas would have them granted in good time.

### 9-15 April

❖ **REACH IN DURHAM.** Currently the Reach Volunteer in Durham is Sunny – who started with us in September 2017. Sunny says: “Praise God for the opportunity to read the Bible with Japanese exchange students in our weekly church outreach club. Please

pray in particular for two Japanese girls, in the UK for one year, who seem very interested to know more! Pray also that I would be growing in obedience and trust, and God would be using this year for my growth and for his saving plans for the nations.”

### 16-22 April

#### ❖ **REACH IN SOUTHAMPTON.**

We have had Reach Volunteers in Southampton for several years now. They have contributed to the ministry in amazing ways and grown in cross-cultural ministry. Currently Ena is the Reach Volunteer in Southampton. She says: “Give thanks for friends who are supporting me in different ways. Pray for my financial support for my Reach year, that God will provide what I need. Pray that I would learn through this year to love and serve others and use what I learn to help international students to know about the good news of Jesus. Pray that I will stand more firmly and strongly in Jesus Christ.”

### 23-30 April

#### ❖ **THE FUTURE OF REACH.**

During the summer we hope to recruit somebody who can take on the role of overseeing and managing our Reach Programme. The opportunities are exciting and we believe God's hand is on this programme of cross-cultural discipleship. Please pray for the recruitment process as we advertise and seek the right person for the role. Pray that in this next season we would see the Reach Programme grow and more and more individuals trained and discipled.



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